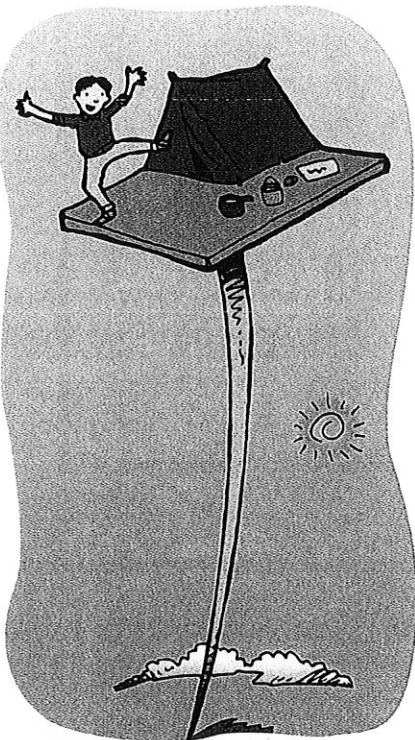


The Jazz Age

After World War I ended, a new mood swept the United States—and much of the rest of the world. The misery and death of the war were over, and it felt like time to celebrate and take life less seriously. In New Orleans, African-American and European musical influences had already mixed to create “jazz,” a new kind of music played at first in funeral processions. Soon great performers like trumpeter Louis Armstrong and singer Bessie Smith showed the whole country how good jazz could sound. The radio, developed for communication during the war, brought jazz and other entertainment to people at home for the first time.

During the 1920s, a Constitutional amendment made the sale of alcoholic beverages illegal. But this “Prohibition” was ignored in many bars called “speakeasies” where people met to talk, drink, and dance to jazz. At large, private homes, party-goers swung to the music, too, as the wealthy grew richer during the prosperous decade. Writers like F. Scott Fitzgerald recorded their carefree and careless lives in fiction. At any party there were likely to be “flappers,” daring young women who wore their hair in the fashionable “bob,” raised the hems of their skirts to the knee, and did dances like the “Charleston” to the new music. American women in general gained confidence as they entered the work force in greater numbers than ever and exercised their right to vote.

Electricity reached about two thirds of homes by 1929, allowing people to use many new labor saving devices, including vacuum cleaners, washing machines, toasters, and refrigerators. With the arrival of phonograph records, people could work or play while listening to music.



Fads like flagpole sitting swept the country in the 1920s.



Organized crime increased in the 1920s when the sale of alcohol became illegal.

The Movies

The first motion pictures flickered across the screen for less than a minute. These black and white "living photographs" were made possible by the work of many inventors, including the American Thomas Edison and the Lumiere brothers of France, in the last years of the 1800s. Short movies were shown together at theaters with 5-cent admission, called "nickelodeons." As the new century began, longer movies were made, and they were shown as part of "vaudeville" performances along with singers, comics, and skit actors.



Charlie Chaplin



Mary Pickford



Douglas Fairbanks

These were the first "stars" to work for the first major movie studio, United Artists.

Filmmaking took a big step in 1903 when Edwin Porter created the first film that told a story, *The Great Train Robbery*. Soon actors and comics like Charlie Chaplin were turning out movie after movie. Thomas Edison built the first film studio in the United States in West Orange, New Jersey, and in 1918, producer D.W. Griffith created United Artists, the first studio that kept actors on contract.

People flocked to the movies in the 1920s, but even more viewers came after 1927 to see the first feature picture that had sound, *The Jazz Singer*, starring Al Jolson. The "talkies" captured an American audience of about 100 million every week by 1930. By the mid-1930s color movies appeared on the scene.

Most American films were produced in Hollywood, California, where the major studios were located. Movies were especially popular in the 1930s during the Great Depression, because they provided a way for people to forget their troubles. The coming of television in the 1950s reduced ticket sales, but movies revived when large theater complexes were built in the 1970s and when films on videocassette became available in the same decade.

Read the clues about the movies.

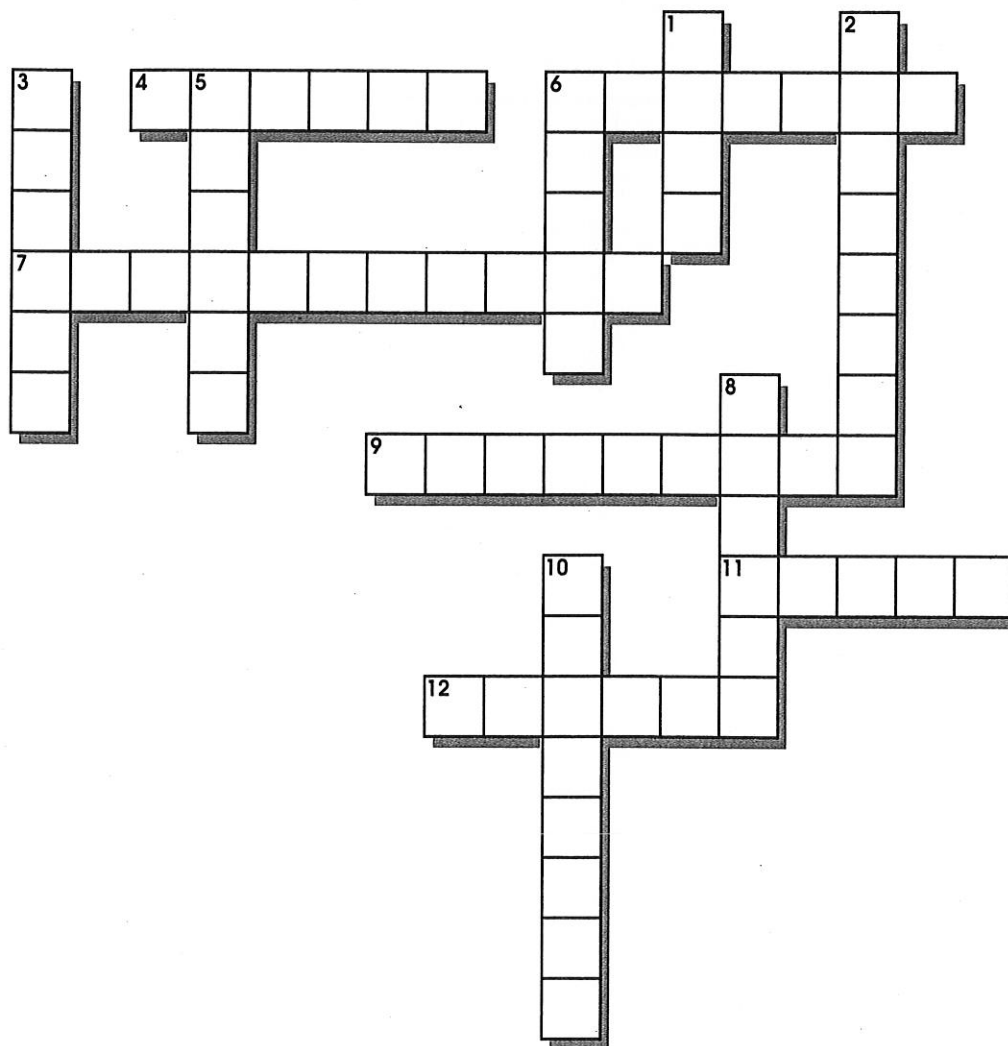
Then complete the puzzle using the word list on the next page.

Across

4. A place where films are produced and filmed
6. Charlie _____ was a great early film comic.
7. Name for an early movie theater where admission was 5 cents
9. The town where most films were—and continue to be—produced
11. Term for famous movie actors
12. Name of an American inventor who contributed to movie technology

Down

1. The first talking motion picture was about this kind of singer
2. Last name of the first female studio star
3. Country of the Lumiere Brothers, who helped develop motion pictures
5. Nickname for an early motion picture with sound
6. In the mid 1930s, this made movies more appealing.
8. Name of the star of The Jazz Singer
10. Name of the producer who founded United Artists



Word List

CHAPLIN
COLOR
EDISON
FRANCE

GRIFFITH
HOLLYWOOD
JAZZ

JOLSON
NICKELODEON
PICKFORD

STARS
STUDIO
TALKIE